

Fig. 1

Division options:

=====

1. 5
2. 4+1
3. 3+2
4. 3+1+1
5. 2+2+1
6. 2+1+1+1
7. 1+1+1+1+1

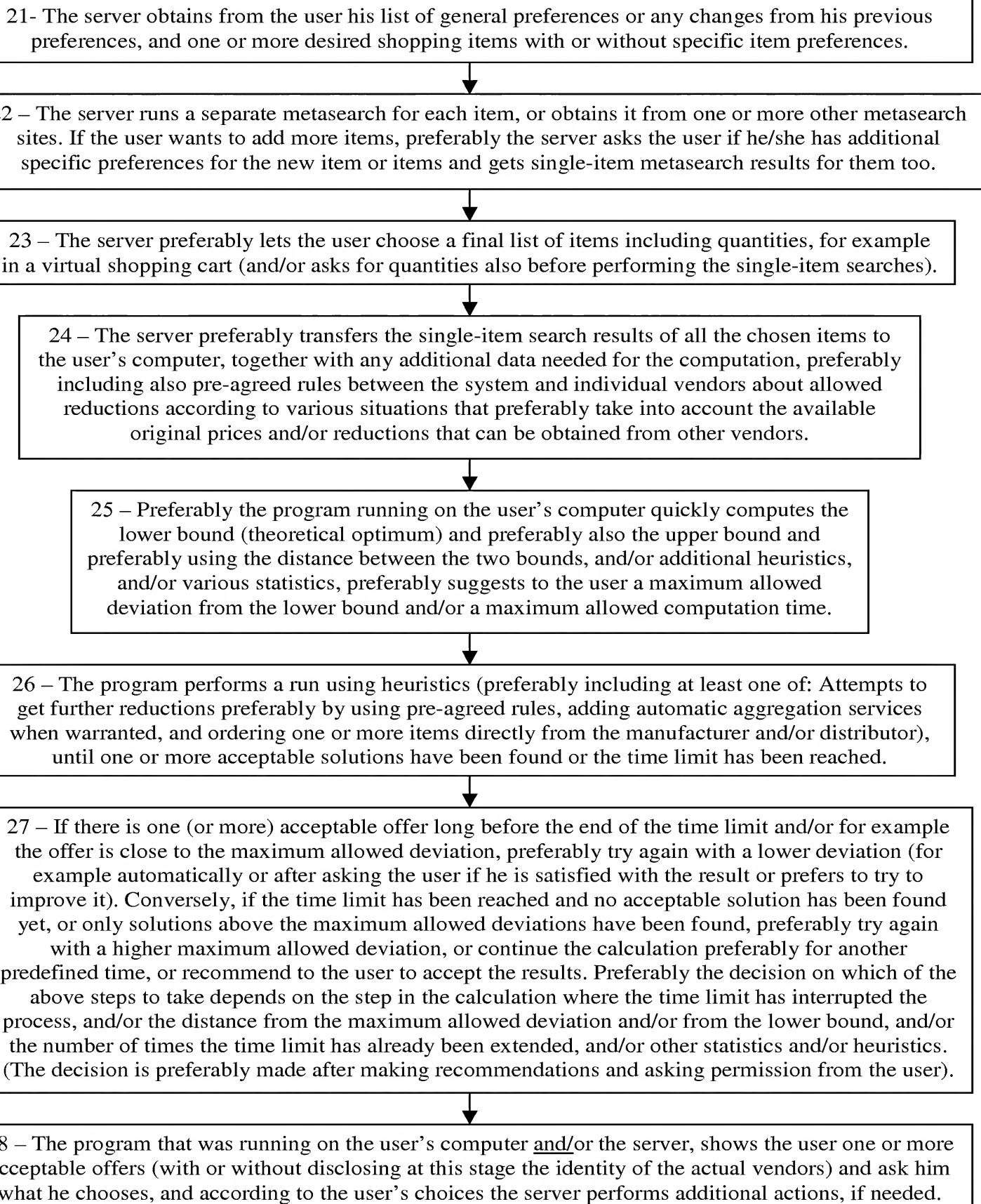
Fig. 2

Fig. 3a

Here are the results of your optimization run for buying 5 books from 189 potential vendors. These results were obtained after 45 seconds out of 60 seconds allowed. No special reductions were possible.

The Recommended offer for buying the 5 items you requested is:
Buy the books:

<Image> 1. **TITLE:** Alternative Science: Challenging the Myths of the Scientific Establishment by **Author:** Richard Milton **ISBN:** 0892816317
Publisher: Inner Traditions International, Limited, **Publish Date:** 04/01/1996, **Binding:** Paperback , 272 pages, **List Price:** USD 16.95

<Image> 2. **TITLE:** Shattering the Myths of Darwinism by **Author:** Richard Milton **ISBN:** 0892818840
Publisher: Inner Traditions International, Limited **Publish Date:** 03/01/2000 **Binding:** Paperback , 320 pages **List Price:** USD 16.95

From amazon.co.uk. Total cost: (\$15.15 for item 1+ \$15.15 for item 2+ \$14 shipment by airmail) = \$44.30.
Item 1 ships within 24 hours. Item 2 ships within 2-3 days. Airmail time: 7-10 days. Total estimated time: 9-13 days.

Buy the books:

<Image> 1. **TITLE:** Cracking Creativity: The Secrets of Creative Genius by **Author:** Michael Michalko **ISBN:** 1580083110
Publisher: Ten Speed Press **Publish Date:** 03/01/2001 **Binding:** Paperback , 352 pages **List Price:** USD 19.95

<Image> 2. **TITLE:** Creativity: Flow & the Psychology of Discovery & Invention by **Author:** Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi **ISBN:** 0060928204
Publisher: HarperTrade **Publish Date:** 06/01/1997 **Binding:** Paperback , 352 pages **List Price:** USD 15.00

From powell.com (2nd hand). Total cost: (\$9 for item 1+ \$5.25 for item 2+ \$15 shipment by airmail) = \$29.25.
Item 1 ships within 1-3 days. Item 2 ships within 2-3 days. Airmail time: up to 14 days. Total estimated time: up to 17 days.

Buy the book:

<Image> 1. **TITLE:** Creative Breakthroughs: Tap the Power of Your Unconscious Mind by **Author:** Jill Morris **ISBN:** 0446392170
Publisher: Warner Books, Incorporated **Publish Date:** 03/01/1992 **Binding:** Paperback , 272 pages **List Price:** USD 15.95
eBook list price USD 9.95

As an eBook from powell.com. Total cost (\$7.96 + 0 shipment) = \$7.96. Estimated time: Instantly.
If you prefer to buy a hard-copy instead, Click [here](#) to view alternative offer.

Estimate of the level of the result: Lower bound was: \$75.35, Upper bound was \$118.70, Maximum allowed deviation was \$15. Acceptable offer is \$81.51. Various statistics indicate that the obtained result is probably within 5% from the real optimal solution.

Fig. 3b

Here are the results of your optimization run for buying 8 computer-related items from 290 potential vendors. These results were obtained after 2.33 minutes out of 4 minutes allowed.

The Recommended offer for buying the 8 items you requested is:

Buy the items:

<Image> 1. **Brother MFC-9880** laser copier, printer, fax and color scanner. List price \$940.20. Dimensions: With Carton (598mm width) x (567mm depth) x (580mm height) Without Carton (492mm width) x (456mm depth) x (429mm height). Weight With Carton 21.2 Kg Without Carton 17 Kg.

< Image> 2.

From amatteroffax.com. Total Cost (\$576.76 for item 1 + \$340 for item 2 + \$12 shipment to aggregation point by ground 2 days)=\$934.76. This cost includes a reduction of 5% from original price on item no.2 allowed by pre-agreed rules, in order to prevent loss of item 2 to emscomputing.com.

Buy the items:

< Image> 1.

< Image> 2.

< Image> 3.

< Image> 4.

< Image> 5.

from emscomputing.com. Total cost (...)

Buy the item:

< Image> 1.

from PCNation. Total cost (...)

Since amatteroffax.com does not offer International orders at this stage, and since the shipment from emscomputing.com will cost \$120 without the additional item from PCNation and \$128 with it + \$10 ground shipment to aggregation point, and separate International shipment from PCNation alone will cost \$48, it is recommended to execute the order with our aggregation services. Giving up amatteroffax.com and our aggregation service will increase total cost by \$152 to the next found acceptable offer. Total estimated shipment time is (3 days for ground shipment to aggregation point + 4 days for FedEx to Israel) = 7 days.

Estimate of the level of the result: Lower bound was: \$2135.50, Upper bound was \$2712.00, Maximum allowed deviation was \$180. Acceptable offer is \$2282.50 including \$20 for aggregation service. Various statistics indicate that the obtained result is probably within 2% from the real optimal solution based on the single-items search data.